

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS
PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT SECOND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2021, 4:00 – 6:00 P.M.

I. Meeting Opening

Jessica Kiel, Chair of the Council, called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M. and reviewed the meeting agenda. At Ms. Kiel’s request, Larry McNeely, Health Policy Analyst with the Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Maryland Department of Health took the roll call. Ms. Kiel then turned the meeting over to Kristi Pier, Director, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control.

II. PHHS Advisory Committee Meeting

Ms. Pier opened the Public Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant Public Hearing and welcomed both the council members and members of the Public. She informed all attendees that the Maryland Health and Wellness Council is the designated Advisory Committee for the PHHS Block Grant with a mandate to provide feedback and approval of the annual PHHS work plan and budget as well as review progress and provide feedback on implementation of PHHS activities. This is done annually in October and April. The purpose of the PHHS Block Grant is to allow states, tribes, territories, and D.C. to address unique public health needs and challenges.

Dr. Alonge thereafter provided updates on the current FFY 20 (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021) funding and activities as well as the proposed workplan and budget for the upcoming FFY 21 (October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022). There was an opportunity for both council members and members of the public to ask questions with both Ms. Pier and Dr. Alonge responding as needed. There were two members of the public in attendance.

III. Reconvene the Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness

Ms. Kiel reconvened the Council at 4:45 pm and again thanked the council members for attending and making it possible to attain a quorum. She thereafter requested for members to vote to approve the January Advisory Council meeting minutes as well as minutes for ad-hoc committee minutes that occurred in January and February 2021. The adhoc meetings were an opportunity for the council to review bills and provide input during the State legislative session. Salliann Alborn offered a motion to approve the minutes for the Council’s January 20, 2021, January 26, 2021, February 9, 2021, and

February 16, 2021 meetings en bloc; Sumit Bassi, MD, seconded. The motion was adopted without objection.

IV. Legislative Session Update

Mr. McNeely reviewed the bills supported by the Council during the 2021 Legislative Session and their status. Mr. McNeely expressed appreciation for the robust participation of the Council in legislative meetings this year and the efforts of the Council's Legislative Ad Hoc Workgroup.

Two Council-supported bills were passed by both legislative chambers:

- [SB 365 Neighborhood Business Development Program – Food Desert Projects](#) expands a program to support healthy food projects in food deserts.
- [HB 831 Maryland Food System Resiliency Council](#) establishes a Maryland Food System Resiliency Council charged with producing recommendations to address food insecurity and food system sustainability.

Three other Council-supported bills did not advance beyond their initial hearing in Committee:

- [HB 134 Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products Prohibition](#) would have prohibited manufacture, sale, purchase or storage of flavored tobacco, and vaping products in the state, including mint and menthol products.
- [HB 1296 Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity \(Student Health and Fitness Act\)](#) would have created a weekly goal of at least 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity in public elementary schools, including at least 90 minutes of physical education, and removed barriers to recess participation.
- [HB 1079 Admissions and Amusement Tax - Exemption - Activities That Promote Health and Physical Well-Being](#) would have exempted health club memberships, tennis courts, and physical activity-promoting activities from all municipal and county admissions and amusement taxes statewide.

Ms. Kiel thanked members for their active participation in the Council's 2021 legislative work. She complimented the Council on this year's high meeting attendance. That attendance enabled the Council to take positions on legislation after failing to achieve quorum during the 2020 Legislative Session.

V. Committee Updates

Ms. Kiel invited Committee Chairs to deliver brief reports:

- [Arthritis Committee \(Rachel Pigott\)](#): Ms. Pigott joined the Physical Activity Committee's recent meeting to discuss potential cross-committee collaboration. Ms. Pigott highlighted robust Council member participation in the Council's Walk to Cure Arthritis team.

- Diabetes Committee (Pamela Xenakis): The Diabetes Committee is looking forward to engaging with the Department’s Clinical Quality Task Force when that body is fully functioning later this year.
- Heart Disease and Stroke Committee (Angela Deal): The Committee drafted a letter supporting Medicaid blood pressure home monitoring coverage. The Committee will meet with the Oral Health Program staff to discuss building on previous work on blood pressure screening in dental settings.
- Fitness Committee (Amanda Klein): Amanda Klein delivered the Committee’s report on behalf of the Committee Chair, Dr. Aruna Nathan. The Committee is mapping the physical activity programs available and eligibility criteria across Maryland, with the aim of making information available to the public on the Department’s website.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Kiel adjourned the meeting at 5:24 PM with members attending their individual committee meetings.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Salliann Alborn
 Mary Backley
 Summit Bassi, M.D.
 Mary Pat Bertacchi, RDN
 Jonathan Dayton
 Angela Deal
 Jennifer Eastman
 Mychelle Farmer, M.D.
 Gary Gerstenblith, M.D.
 Roger Harrel
 Jessica Kiel, RDN
 Linda Kline
 Seth Martin, M.D.
 Julie Maneen
 Seth Martin, M.D.
 Aruna Nathan, M.D.
 Titilayo Ogunmakinwa

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Afton Thomas
 Lois A. Freeman
 Namisa Kramer
 Vivienne Rose, M.D.
 Geeta Sharma

MDH STAFF PRESENT

Olubukola Alonge, M.D., MPH
 Kathleen Graham
 Amanda Klein
 Larry McNeely
 Kristi Pier
 Sue Vaeth
 John Welby
 Debony Hughes

Rachel Pigott
Cameron Pollock
Vaple Robinson, Ph.D., R.N.
Jason Semanoff
Teresa Titus-Howard, Ph.D.
Sara Vazer, M.D.
Kristin Watson, Pharm.D.
Pamela Williams
Vanina Wolf
Pamela Xenakis, RDN

Chad Perman

**Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness
Agenda**

APRIL 21, 2021; 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Maryland Department of Health

Virtual Meeting

[Zoom Meeting](#)

or

[Phone:](#) 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 995 7073 8978 Passcode: 472819

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| I. Open Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness | 4:00 PM |
| Jessica Kiel, Chair | |
| • Welcome and Agenda Review | |
| • Roll Call | |
| II. Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant
Public Hearing Meeting | 4:05 PM |
| III. Reconvene Maryland Advisory Council on Health and Wellness | 4:45 PM |
| • January 2021 Minutes Review/Approval | |
| IV. Legislative Session Update | 4:55 PM |
| Larry McNeely, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, MDH | |
| V. Committee Updates | 5:05 PM |
| • Arthritis | |
| • Diabetes | |
| • Heart Disease and Stroke | |
| • Physical Fitness | |
| VI. Adjourn | 5:25 PM |
| VII. Committee Meetings | 5:25 PM |
| (Zoom break out rooms) | |

2021 Council Meetings—July 21; October 20, 2021 4:00-6:00 PM